

# City SG—January 23rd, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** Blank Space (Choose Your Words Carefully) • *Proverbs 12:18*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Think before you speak.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)*

## 1. Think Before You Speak

**What You Need:** Buzzer (1 per Group)

### What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- ***Inform the kids that they are going to spend some time reviewing the Bible Story today in a FUN way by competing in a game!***
- Guide the two teams to sit on either side of you.
- Instruct the kids to choose one kid from their team who will try to be the first to hit the buzzer and answer the question as fast as they can.
- Warn the kids that some of the review questions may be tricky, so they should listen to the entire question and think before they speak!
- Read a review question from today's story and let the team representatives race to hit the buzzer.
- Let the first kid who hit the buzzer answer the question.
- If they're right, their team gets a point.
- If they're wrong, let the other team have a chance to answer.
- The team with the most correct answers, wins!

### Review questions:

1. Which king was the wisest man to ever live? (*King Solomon*)
2. What's something a wise and kind person would say about someone? (*Answers will vary.*)
3. What book of the Bible were Solomon's wise sayings—including today's—written in? (*Proverbs*)
4. What's something a thoughtless person would say? (*Answers will vary.*)
5. What do many of Solomon's wise sayings remind us to be wise with? (*words*)
6. What sharp object cuts just like thoughtless people's words? (*sword*)
7. What does Solomon teach the tongue of a wise person brings? (*healing*)
8. Our Bottom Line today reminds us that we should \_\_\_\_ before we speak. (*think*)

### What You Say:

"When I think about how King Solomon compared our hurtful words to swords that cut people, it really puts into perspective how deeply we can hurt someone when we are careless with what we say. We've all had someone say something hurtful to us. It doesn't feel good, does it? How does it feel when someone says something positive and kind to you? (*Allow time for responses.*)

"The fact that so many of King Solomon's wise sayings are about our words shows us how very important it is to **[Bottom Line] think before you speak**. There are times when we are tempted to allow our emotions to take over and spit out whatever words we want. But instead, God wants us to see that a wise person uses their internal mute button. They think before they speak, and they make a choice to show self-control in their responses. I want in on that kind of talk!"

## 2. Say It, Don't Say It

**What You Need:** "Say What?" cards (1 set per Group) and "Say It, Don't Say It" Signs (1 set per Group), Container for Cards (1 per Group)

### What You Do:

- Set one container containing your "Say What? Cards" at one end of your area.
- Put the "Say It" and "Don't Say It" signs at the opposite end of your area.
- At your signal, kids go to the "Say What?" cards container and pick a card out. If they need help, you can read them their card, and then they will move the card to the matching "Say It" or "Don't Say It" sign.
- When kids have sorted all the cards, read the sorted "Say What?" phrases aloud, emphasizing whether each one is helpful or hurtful.
- Encourage kids to name other hurtful words and suggest additional helpful words as well.

### What You Say:

"Words are POWERFUL! They can bring friends together or they can pull friends apart. They can hurt others' feelings or they can encourage them and help them be their best. So before you speak, ask yourself if your words will HURT or if they will HELP. If you think they might help, say them! But if you think they might hurt, press your MUTE button. Don't speak!

***[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you chose to press your MUTE button. It may have been when someone cut in front of you at a store or a time someone was rude to you. Tell kids how you pressed your MUTE button or chose to say something kind instead.)***

"When can you ***[Bottom Line]*** think before you speak? *(when someone pushes on the playground; when a little sister annoys; when someone says something mean; when someone cuts in line)* Great ideas! So this week, ***[Bottom Line]*** think before you speak!"

## 3. New Year's Goals

### ***Non-Reader Option Highlighted Below***

**What You Need:** "New Year's Goals" Activity Pages (1 per every 2-3 kids) and pens

### What You Do:

- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Inform kids that they are going to have fun coming up with words to fill in the blanks for a New Year's Story.
- Say to them, "Just like God can help us to think before we speak, You can work together to think of fun and creative words for your story."
- Give each group an Activity Page and a pen.
- Instruct kids to fold the page in half and only look at the word bank.
- Encourage the kids to work together to choose words based on the description in the list.
- ***For Non-Readers, lead this activity with your whole Group using ONE of the Activity Pages, filling in the Blanks based on the Answers your Group gives you, and then read the created Story to them based on the answers they gave. Repeat a few times on fresh Activity Pages with different answers from the Kids.***

- When they complete the list of words, instruct the kids to fill in the blanks in the story with the corresponding words they choose as a group. (Make sure they understand that the first word in the list goes in the blank labeled “1.” The second word goes in the “2” blank, etc.)
- Once the stories are complete, invite each group to read their stories to the rest of the group.

**What You Say:**

“With the choices you made, you guys created some really funny stories! You had to think hard about the words you chose to write down because some of those descriptions were super-specific! We should always think about the words we choose to say. God can help us to think before we speak!”

**4. Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:** “New Year’s Goals” Activity Pages from Activity #3

**What You Do:**

- Let the kids read their stories again and laugh together about how silly they are!
- Remind them that funny words can be used to build others up and make them laugh.
- Close your group time in prayer.

**What You Say:**

“Dear God, we are so thankful You want to use our words to make a huge impact in the world around us! God, just like the words in our stories were what made the stories so funny, remind us that the words we choose each and every day are what make our real-life stories awesome, too! Please show us how to have self-control with our words. Let Your Holy Spirit remind us of the power we have within us and that we can always choose to **[Bottom Line] think before you speak**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen!”